



UNRAVELING NORTH AMERICA'S LAST GREAT ORNITHOLOGICAL MYSTERY

Researcher **Nancy Naslund** will give a first-hand account of the "Nesting Behavior of the Elusive Marbled Murrelet" at the **Nov. 8th** program in **Berkeley**. The program, which will begin at **7:30 Thursday** at the Northbrae Community Church, is the third in a series on Old Growth Forests and Wildlife.

Naslund has studied the Marbled Murrelet for the past three years in her graduate work for the Institute of Marine Sciences, UC Santa Cruz, and in habitat studies for the US Forest Service.

In 1989 her research group found the third and fourth Marbled Murrelet tree nests ever recorded in North America. These discoveries led to the first detailed observations of this seabird's tree nesting habitat and brood-rearing behavior (she will bring her video of adults feeding young in the nest). Naslund will also

(continued overleaf)

CHRISTMAS COUNTS OAKLAND

The 1990 Oakland Christmas Count will take place on Sunday, December 16. We hope that all the usual suspects will round themselves up and participate. We would also like to introduce the joys of Christmas Bird Counts to people who have not participated before. Mark this date on your calendar! Call Barbara Rivenes at the GGAS office or call one of the compilers (Lina Prairie, 549-3187 or David Rice, 527-7210) and volunteer. Everyone who participated last year will receive an invitation letter later this month. *The GULL* for December will contain more information.

—DAVID RICE

SAN FRANCISCO

Now is the time to plan to take part in the Eighth Annual SF Christmas Bird Count on Thursday, Dec. 27. Join a full day team in a major area, bird for a few hours at a downtown or neighborhood park or square, or watch in your back yard for as little as thirty minutes. Count down dinner at the Hall of Flowers (County Fair Bldg.) We are interested in increasing the area of our count circle we cover with a boat. If you can help by providing a boat, please call Alan Hopkins. To sign up please call me during the last week of November at 564-0074.

—DAN MURPHY



UNRAVELING MYSTERY . . .

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discuss additional discoveries of nests and observations of predation made this year.

The Marbled Murrelet is currently under review by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for possible threatened or endangered status. In January 1988 the National Audubon Society and over forty local Audubon chapters in California, Oregon and Washington requested this review because the murrelet's old-growth nesting habitat continues to be lost.

The background information Naslund sent me for her talk sounds fascinating. Unusual among seabirds, Marbled Murrelets nest in old growth forests many miles from coastal waters where they dive for fish. Even though its inland nesting habits have been suspected since the early 1900s, it wasn't until 1974 that the first North American nest located in a tree was found also in Big Basin. Previous searches for murrelet tree nests had been futile because the small robin-sized birds nest on the taller trees in old-growth forests, and leave

the nests only in the half-light at sunrise and sunset, making them almost impossible to see. For this reason, bird-watchers consider their behavior "the last ornithological mystery in North America".

Like any great mystery story, this one involves stealthy stalking through dimly lit primeval forests, good guys, bad guys, and elusive creatures whose eerie throaty squawks can be heard as they fly, unseen, cloaked in the misty morning darkness. See and hear the mystery unravel Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The Northbrae Community Church is located at 941 The Alameda in Berkeley.

—JOELLA BUFFA
Program Chairman

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Sunday, November 4—Rodeo Lagoon.

Saturday, November 10—Birds of Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park.

Wednesday, November 14—Mini-trip to Aquatic Park, Berkeley.

For details on the above, see *The GULL* for October.

Sunday, November 18—Palo Alto Baylands. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 101 south to Palo Alto, exit at Embarcadero and drive east toward the yacht harbor and Baylands refuge. After entering the Refuge meet in the parking lot on the right just before the Duck Pond. (The Duck Pond is on the left just beyond the Palo Alto Airport.) Bring lunch, scopes, and clothes for rain and mud. We should see waterfowl, rails, shorebirds, and possibly

Burrowing Owls. Leader: Bob Hirt (408/446-4478). (✓)

Thursday, November 22—Sixteenth Annual Thanksgiving outing to Point Reyes National Seashore. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, Section H, or at 10 a.m. at the Point Reyes National Seashore Headquarters (one mile west of Olema). We hope to see alumni of previous years and welcome newcomers to this tradition. We will have a leisurely day of birding and hiking. We generally see an excellent variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and landbirds. The day will end with a Thanksgiving dinner at 4:30 or 5 p.m. at Jerry's Farmhouse (about \$14) in the town of Olema. No reservations needed for trip or restaurant. Bring a light lunch, scope (if you have one), and clothes for cool windy weather. Leader: Barry Spitz (454-2769). (✓)

Saturday, December 1—Monterey Bay and Coastal Areas. Meet at 9 a.m. in Monterey at the foot of Coast Guard Pier. (Bring quarters for parking.) We will bird this area then drive north, stopping at various spots including Moss landing. We will be looking for loons, grebes, gulls, and rocky coastline species. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Leader: Don Starks (408/226-4134). (✓)

Saturday, December 8—U.C. Davis Raptor Rehabilitation Center. Meet at 10 a.m. See how tender loving care can return disabled raptors (including eagles, owls, and several species of hawks) to their natural habitat. Hear Terry Schulz, Raptor Rehabilitation Center supervisor, describe procedures to avoid human imprint on birds prior to their release, discuss raptor biology, and explain the objectives of the Center's programs. After this fascinating visit we will caravan to Spreckel's Pond for shorebirds and to

other nearby areas to look for Short Eared Owls. Bring lunch and liquids. Trip ends in late afternoon.

To get there: Take I-80 east to the U.C. Davis off-ramp. Turn south (away from freeway) and cross the railroad tracks. Continue one-half mile to the top of a rise (do not cross the bridge) and turn left on the dirt road. Continue 200 yards to parking area. Allow one and one-half hours driving time from East Bay. Bring lunch. Leader: Terry Schulz: (916/752-6091). (✓)

Wednesday, December 12—Mini-trip to Lake Merritt, Oakland. Meet at the Rotary Science Center at 9:30 a.m. Go east on Grand Ave., cross Harrison St. and turn right on Bellevue to the Rotary Science Center on the right. This is a good opportunity to review waterfowl. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks and other sites that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

FIELD TRIPS LEADERS—some of our long-time leaders need a rest, but our members still want to go birding to their customary wide variety of sites. We need knowledgeable leaders for a few selected areas, or your own favorite spot. Leaders need not be "hot shots," but willing to host a group and familiar with a selected area. Call Russ Wilson, 524-2399, to volunteer, or just chat about the possibilities.

CHRISTMAS COUNT DINNER HOSTS—The dinner following our all-day Christmas Bird Count is a pleasurable time for everyone, but to make it run smoothly our caterer needs help, both before

and after the dinner. Our caterer donates her time and energy, and we help out with some set-up and clean-up duties. The Oakland Christmas Count is December 16 and the dinner will be in Kensington again. The San Francisco Count is December 27 and will be at the Hall of Flowers again. Please volunteer to be part of this important "taskforce" by calling Barbara at the office, 843-2222.

SF BIRD SEED SALE HOST—Our seed sales provide the greatest source of undesignated funds for our conservation activities. We need a new San Francisco pick-up location to serve our San Francisco customers. The next seed sale will be January 19, 1991 (Saturday). We require an accessible covered space (garage) where the seed can be dropped off by our supplier, availability on the sale day for customer pick-up plus some possible late pick-ups.

It will probably involve some lifting and organization—and a commitment to helping the chapter and our goals. Please call the office, 843-2222, for further arm-twisting.

ANNA'S BATH

Weeding in my Berkeley back yard mid-afternoon on a warm Oct. 1, I was startled to see the resident Anna's Hummingbird approach the sunken birdbath and buzz a couple of bees that were drinking at its margin. Usually it is the bees that disturb the bird at the feeder. But, perching on the rim this bird appeared to drink tentatively, soared up a foot, then daintily dipped its feet in the water and flew to its plum tree perch. It returned to the rim, then wet its underparts just a little, and went back to its perch. Finally, it was thrashing about in the bath just as it had seen (I presume) the big birds doing. I had wanted to call my wife, but hesitated, not wanting to interrupt the proceedings. By chance, she had looked up from her task, too, and was watching.

—D.M.S.

OBSERVATIONS Through September 30

Part of my summer vacation was spent in Orkney and Shetland, remote and windswept but not inhospitable islands in the North Sea above Scotland, whose chief attractions are their remarkably well-preserved remains of prehistoric settlements and their seabird colonies. While it's difficult for a Californian, steeped in the idea that anything prior to 1849 is ancient history, to contemplate life in structures built in 4000 BC, it's equally difficult to imagine our everyday life proceeding with Fulmars peering down from the roof-tops, Skuas and Jaegers waiting to pounce on unmindful hikers, townside cliffs teeming with thousands of nesting Murres, Guillemots, Razorbills and Kittiwakes and grassy hillsides speckled with the orange bills of strutting Puffins.

While we on the west coast are blessed with some seabird colonies, they are largely inaccessible to observers. One often-overlooked site, however, is Alcatraz, hardly the archetypal example, but home none-the-less to nesting Western Gulls, Brandt's Cormorants, Black-crowned Night-herons, even an occasional Pigeon Guillemot. Recently the Golden Gate National Recreation Area has decided to rebuild a previously-existing trail that goes through the middle of a nesting area, not because of any desire to foster more intimate knowledge of the breeding colony, but to provide yet another vista point in the middle of the bay. When concern was expressed about the welfare of the nests, scientific opinion was proffered espousing "habituation" of the birds to people—a process applied most notably to the gorillas of Rwanda whose future survival is at stake, not the case at present with these

particular species. Biological and ecological concerns aside, accessible seabird colonies are few and far between. Perhaps GGNRA might consider using the money it is planning to spend on a redundant trail to build viewing platforms and provide docents instead, to take advantage, in a non-disruptive way, of the unique proximity of man to nesting birds which already exists. Letters to Brian O'Neill, Supt., GGNRA, Ft. Mason Bldg. 201, SF 94123, making this point might be persuasive.

A glance at this month's observations serves as a reminder of why it is that so many, many bird tour groups come to California in the fall. Seabirds reach peak numbers, returning shorebirds provide limitless opportunities for rarities, hawk-spotting from Hill 129 can be gratifying if the fog obligingly absents itself and vagrant passerines are always an enticing possibility. Intermittant fog and clear, warm weather seem to have been an ideal combination—numbers of unusual passerines were unusually high.

SEABIRDS

This was a month of a few unusual birds and huge numbers of a few birds—warm-water seabirds seem to be particularly abundant earlier than usual.

Black-footed Albatross: two each (but three different individuals total) on Monterey Bay pelagic trips on the 29th and 30th (SJ).

Pink-footed Shearwater: large numbers on Monterey Bay trips early and late in the month (PJM, SJ); much higher numbers than usual (300–400) on SE Farallon from the 3rd to the 9th (PRBO).

Flesh-footed Shearwater: probably a single individual seen in Monterey Bay from the 10th to the 18th (RS fide PJM, AWa, JLD); one seen on the 30th

(AD). **Short-tailed Shearwater:** up to two in Monterey Bay on the 7th (AWa); one on the 30th (AD). **Blackvented Shearwater:** normally a bird that's expected later in the fall, the first individuals appeared off SE Farallon in August with an island high of 60 on Sept. 3rd; they disappeared after the 8th (PRBO). In Monterey Bay, there were up to 40 on the 10th (PJM). Then at the end of the month, perhaps a dozen were seen on a Monterey Bay trip on the 28th. The following day, a boat in exactly the same area found a flock of 500 (SJ). **Murphy's Petrel:** one individual was observed close to shore on SE Farallon on 9/29 (PRBO), but a pelagic trip 100 miles offshore on 9/30 looking specifically for *pterodroma* found none.

The first rafting storm-petrels, a flock of perhaps 5000 Ashy and Black, were seen on the 15th in Monterey Bay. Up to twelve **Least Storm-petrels**, generally found only in warm-water years, were in Monterey Bay from the 10th to the 18th along with up to two Wilson's Storm-petrels (PJM, AWa, JLD). On Aug. 30th, a **Tropicbird**, probably a Red-billed but too far out to be certain of species, was seen off Pigeon Pt. (BS fide RSTh).

Pomerine and Parasitic Jaegers were around in good numbers all month long, with a number of sightings of Parasitic Jaeger away from the immediate coast—they seem to stray inland when there are Elegant Terns around to harass. A juvenal **Long-tailed Jaeger** at the Salinas Sewer Ponds on the 2nd and 3rd provided long, close looks for a lot of observers (DR, JM, SGL, DWh). Another inland individual, a light-morph adult, was spotted from Pt. Pinole on the 15th (MLa). Small numbers were seen on Monterey Bay trips throughout the month. An adult

landed on SE Farallon on the 20th, only the second island record, and was found dead the following day (PRBO). One to two South Polar Skuas were reported on pelagic trips through the month.

Sabine's Gull: an adult in breeding plumage at the Sunnyvale Sewer Ponds from the 9th to the 16th was yet another example of a normally pelagic species serving itself up for photo opportunities away from the rocking boat (PJM, JMD, mob). As many as 50 were seen on pelagic trips. An immature Franklin's Gull was at the Salinas Sewer Ponds on the 4th (DWh).

The **Thick-billed Murre** was last seen on the 1st on the beach at Monterey. It appeared to be oiled and is assumed to have died (fide MLa). **Xantus' Murrelets:** two on the 18th in Monterey Bay (JLD) and four on the 30th, both *scrippsi* and *hypoleucus* races, on the pterodroma trip (JM). **Craveri's Murrelet:** one on Monterey Bay on the 10th (RS fide PJM). **Horned Puffin:** one on the 30th on the pterodroma trip (JM).

SHOREBIRDS

Lesser Golden-plover: up to fifteen individuals at the Spaletta Plateau and seven at Abbott's Lagoon. Another six individuals in scattered locations including a *domenica* on SE Farallon from the 9th to the 27th (PRBO). **Solitary Sandpiper:** up to two at the Salinas Sewer Ponds thru the 18th (mob); another at Lake Lucerne, San Mateo Cty., on 8/30-9/1 (RSTh, SGI). **Hudsonian Godwit:** a juvenal bird at the Sunnyvale Sewer Ponds from the 1st to the 24th—easy to see at first, but increasingly wary as time went on (PJM, mob). **Bar-tailed Godwit:** MacKerricher State Park, Mendocino, from the 1st to the 24th (DT, CSp, MSo, RoK). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** eighteen individuals. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** one at

MacKerricher State Park on the 26th (RoK). **Stilt Sandpiper:** one at Mono Lake on the 1st (MPe); one at Horseshoe Pond on the 5th (RS); and three at the Salinas Sewer Ponds on the 13th (fide DR). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** fourteen individuals. **Ruff:** seven individuals. The possible **Rufous-necked Stint** at the Moon Glow Dairy on the 1st and 2nd, reported last month, is still an unresolved issue.

LAND-BIRDS

White-winged Dove individuals were seen at the Salinas Sewer Ponds on the 2nd (RSTh), Prunedale on the 7th (AWa) and on SE Farallon on the 11th (PRBO). Much more unusual in this area was a **Common Ground-dove** at Ano Nuevo on the 23rd (DSg, DL). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, normally an interior bird, was heard at Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes, on the 20th (RS fide KH).

An immature male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, seen at the New Willows, Pt. Reyes, on the 28th, adds to but a handful of California records for this eastern bird (RS). A **Black-chinned Hummingbird** in Bolinas from the 13th to the 16th is an infrequent coastal migrant (KH).

Flycatchers: the fall always brings a small flurry of unusual flycatcher activity along the coast. **Willow Flycatcher:** individuals at Pt. Reyes on the 1st and 7th (fide BB, BDP); Sunnyvale Sewer Ponds (PM); Pt. Richmond (DES); and the Hayward Shoreline (PEG). **Least Flycatcher:** a total of three on SE Farallon on the 7th, 24th and 25th (PRBO). **Hammond's Flycatcher:** one seen from the Hawk Lookout on the 9th (SMo). **Gray Flycatcher:** one at Moss Beach on the 5th (DKe).

Tropical Kingbird: individuals at Half Moon Bay on the 26th (PJM) and SE Farallon on the 30th (fide KH). **Eastern Kingbird:** Pt. Reyes on the 4th

(RS, KH) and 8th–9th (ThR, MHe); Bodega Bay on the 5th (JMcD); and SE Farallon from the 22nd to the 26th (PRBO).

A Brown Thrasher was found in a yard in San Rafael on the 18th (DaN) and the Bendire's Thrasher returned once more to the yard at 333 Jahant Rd. in Lodi on the 11th (DGY).

A **Red-throated Pipit** was heard over Pt. Reyes on the 22nd (SNGH); one was observed on SE Farallon from the 24th to the 27th (PRBO).

Vireos: in addition to the normal rash of Red-eyed Vireos—Fairhaven on the 5th (JCS), GG Park on the 9th to 11th (RKO, SMO, MLR, JMHu), Pt. Reyes on the 10th–11th (SGL, JMR, FGB) and SE Farallon on the 30th (fide KH)—there were a couple of real goodies: **Yellow-green Vireo** at GG Park from the 23rd to the 26th (DPM, mob); and two **Philadelphia Vireos**, one at Fairhaven on the 1st (JHz fide RAE) and a second at Pt. Reyes on the 20th (RS).

Vagrant warblers, conspicuously minimal last spring, abounded this month:

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

Moss Beach	9/22–24	1	RSTh, JM, DSg, AME, BDP
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TENNESSEE WARBLER

Golden Gate Park	9/3	1	SMO
Marin Headlands	9/11	1	CLF
Pescadero	9/11	1	AWi
Moss Beach	9/15	1	RSTh
Hayward Shoreline	9/22	1	RJR

NASHVILLE WARBLER

Golden Gate Park	9/8	1	AGe
Bolinas	9/13	1	KH
Pescadero	9/24	1	THK, AWa

NORTHERN PARULA

Pescadero	9/8–29	1	RSTh, AWi, mob
Palomarin	9/17	1	KH

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

Presidio	9/9	1	BH0
Pt. Reyes	9/10–11, 21–22	1	SGL, JMR, FGB, KH, RS
Bolinas	9/12–16	1	KH

Moss Beach	9/13, 29–30	1, 1	RSTh, AME
SE Farallon	9/21–22, 28	1, 1	PRBO
Gazos Creek Rd.	9/23	1	DSg, DL
Half Moon Bay	9/24	1	BDP
Pescadero	9/24–26, 30	1, 2	THK, AWa, KGH, RSTh

MAGNOLIA WARBLER

Fairhaven, Hum.	9/5	1	JCS
Bodega Bay	9/5, 11	1, 1	JMcD, DN
Pt. Reyes	9/21, 29–30	1, 2	CAX fide KH, JM mob

CAPE MAY WARBLER

SE Farallon	9/30	1	fide KH
Pt. Reyes	9/20	1	RS
SE Farallon	9/30	1	fide KH

HERMIT WARBLER

Golden Gate Park	9/8	1	fide AGe
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BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

Half Moon Bay	9/29–30	1	RSTh, DKi, RKO
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BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

Pt. Reyes	9/22	1, 1	RS
SE Farallon	9/18, 22–23	1, 1	PRBO

PRAIRIE WARBLER

SE Farallon	9/20–21, 25	1, 1	PRBO
Pt. Reyes	9/20–23	1	CAX fide KH, RS, JM
Lincoln Park, SF	9/30	1	DSg

PALM WARBLER

SE Farallon	9/14–23	4	PRBO
Moss Beach	9/20	1	RSTh
Pt. Reyes	9/30	1	MWi
Lincoln Park, SF	9/30	1	DSg

BLACKPOLL WARBLER

Fairhaven, Hum.	9/1	1	JHz fide RAE
SE Farallon	9/20–25	3	PRBO
Pt. Reyes	9/22, 25, 28	1, 1, 1	RS, DSg
Pescadero	9/23, 30	1, 1	RSTh
Bodega Bay	9/26	1	DN
Palo Alto	9/29	1	PJM
Half Moon Bay	9/29	1	RSTh

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

Bolinas	9/13	1	CAX fide KH
Pt. Pinole	9/15	1	MLa
Moss Beach	9/30	1	fide RSTh

AMERICAN REDSTART

Pt. Reyes	8/20–9/1, 20	1, 2	RS, BDP, EDG
Fairhaven, Hum.	9/5, 6	1, 1	JCS
San Francisco	9/11, 23 29, 30	1, 1, 1, 1	RuD, AME, SMO, JSC

SE Farallon	9/11-21	5	PRBO
Hayward	9/16	1	RJR
Moss Beach	9/20-25	1	RSTh,mob
Pescadero	9/30	1	RSTh

OVENBIRD

SE Farallon	9/20,22,30	1,1,2	PRBO
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NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

SE Farallon	8/31,9/27	1,1	KH,PRBO
Arcata Marsh	9/2	1	SWH fide RAE
Rodeo Lake	9/3-5	1	GHg
Fairhaven, Hum.	9/6	1	JCS
Pt. Reyes	9/29	1	RJR

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH

Fairhaven, Hum.	9/6	1	JCS
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CONNECTICUT WARBLER

SE Farallon	9/18	1	PRBO
Half Moon Bay	9/22	1	RSTh

MOURNING WARBLER

Mad River Park, Hum.	9/5-6	1	JCS
SE Farallon	9/30	1	fide KH

YELLOW BREASTED CHAT

Pt. Reyes	9/22-23	1-2	RS,DSg, BDP,CKf
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An adult male Summer Tanager was seen at Half Moon Bay on the 26th (PJM); a female **Scarlet Tanager** was at Pt. Arena on the 29th (ShH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks: Bolinas on the 20th (CAx fide KH); Pt. Reyes (2) on the 22nd (RS, DSg); GG Park from the 25th to the 29th (KH, mob); SE Farallon (4) from the 22nd to the 25th (PRBO); and El Granada on the 27th (BS fide RSTh). Blue Grosbeaks were sighted at Pt. Reyes on the 5th (EB) and the 20th (RS fide KH); and SE Farallon on the 16th and 17th, where there was also an Indigo Bunting on the 25th (PRBO).

A **Dickcissel** was found at the Carmel River on the 5th (RFT fide DR).

Clay-colored Sparrow: SE Farallon—eight individuals from the 18th to the 28th; one at Pt. Reyes on the 23rd (JM, BDP); and one at Pescadero on the 30th (RSTh). A single Brewer's Sparrow was on SE Farallon on the 20th (PRBO). Lark Buntings were found on SE Farallon on 8/31 (KH); Pt. Reyes

on the 10th (MLR); and Salinas Sewer Ponds on the 11th (BDy).

In a month of excellent birds, the prize probably goes to the first California record of **Smith's Longspur**, an Arctic breeder that winters in Oklahoma and Texas, found at the Moon Glow Dairy on the 13th and remaining obligingly until the 18th (DEG, JMa, DR, mob).

OBSERVERS

Chuck Alexander, Bill Baker, Elsie Becker, Florence G. Bennett, Anthony Cernak, J. Scott Cox, J. Michael Danzenbaker, Ruth Denmark, David DeSante, Ann Dewart, Bob Dyer, Alan M. Eisner, Richard A. Erickson, Carter L. Faust, Marc Fenner, Arlene Gemmil, Douglas E. George, Steve Glover, Philip E. Gordon, Edward D. Greaves, Keith Hansen, Stanley W. Harris, Shawn Hayes, John Hazard, Mike Hefernen, Kevin G. Hints, Bob Hogan, Steven N. G. Howell, George Hugenberg, Joan M. Humphrey, Dan Keller, Clay Kempf, Robert Kempke, Richard Kovak, Theodore H. Koundakjian, Michael Larkin, Donna Lion, many observers (mob), John Mariani, John McDonough, Peter J. Metropulos, Joe Morlan, Scott Morrical, Dan P. Murphy, Dan Nelson, David Norton (DaN), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Magnus Persmark, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Don Roberson, Robin E. Roberson, Robin E. Roberson, Therese Roberts, Mike Rogers, Mary Louise Rosegay, Barry Sauppe, Donald E. Schmoltdt, Shearwater Journeys, Dan Singer, Mark Sokal, Chris Spooner, Rich Stallcup, Ronald S. Thorn, Robert F. Tintle, Dorothy Tobkin, Adrian Wander, David Wharton, Mike Wihler, Anna Wilcox, David G. Yee.

—ANN DEWART

CONSERVATION NOTES

YOSEMITE AGAIN

Those of us who are concerned about the National Park Service's failure to implement the 1980 Management Plan for Yosemite National Park were saddened to hear of the Park Superintendent's order to the Yosemite Association to be quiet about its criticisms. (It is a seventy year old volunteer organization dedicated to support of the park.) We were saddened more to hear that the Association's board had accepted the demand, and had not mentioned this to its membership, but encouraged to hear that the membership responded angrily at its annual meeting when the matter came to light.

In other heartening news, a private, non-profit corporation has been announced, organized by a coalition of environmental groups and wealthy business people, with the intent of challenging the **Music Corporation of America's** Yosemite Park and Camp Curry Company contract for the operation of concessions in the Park. The Yosemite Restoration Trust advocates turning over profits earned in the park to the park. At present the law does not permit such a return, based on the presumption that a for-profit corporation would be involved in a conflict of interest, as perhaps it might. If the Yosemite Restoration Trust cannot find a concessionaire willing to carry out its policies, it is ready to make a bid for the concession contract when it comes up for renewal. A non-profit corporation for this purpose is not without precedent. For example, Asilomar State Conference Center is operated by a locally based not-for-profit organization which is not given to the kinds of excess of commercialization that we see in Yosemite under the MCA.

The GULL has (1989, p. 119; 1990, p. 8 and p. 66) urged writing to your Representative and to Senators Cranston and Wilson, and to

Mr. Stanley Albright, Director
Western Region,
National Park Service
450 Golden Gate. Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

If you have written, another letter is needed now, and if you haven't written it is time to do it. Urbanization and congestion of Yosemite Valley must come to an end. Video tape rentals have no place in Yosemite, and are a clear evidence of what a conglomerate like MCA would do if it were not restrained.

WATER FOUL IN REFUGES

Clean water for wildlife can be helped by Senator Bill Bradley's "Central Valley Improvement Act" (S. 2658). It provides a means for the Central Valley's refuges. Presently experts estimate that the fourteen state and federal refuges get 8% of the water required for successful wintering of migratory waterfowl. Populations have declined more than 50% since 1974 and salmon and other anadromous fish have declined 90% since 1945.

S. 2658 may be a last chance to conserve a rich diversity of fish and wildlife that depend upon this area. The bill would elevate fish and wildlife to equal consideration, shoulder to shoulder with agricultural interests. It would require the Secretary of the Interior to secure dependable water supplies to the 14 state and federal refuges and to provide water for "optimal habitat management" of wildlife refuges by the year 2000. And of course, what is needed is citizen support, which you can show by writing to California's two Senators. Ask each to co-sponsor S.2658.

MARIN ISLANDS
IN THE BAY

Hope for a Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge is building with Marin Audubon's campaign to raise money to purchase and permanently protect a major San Francisco Bay heron nesting colony off the bayfront of San Rafael. Undoubtedly many of the herons we all enjoy around the Bay were hatched and reared on three-acre West Marin Island.

West Marin Island and the ten-acre East Marin Island and the 325 acres of adjacent tidelands will be acquired and managed as habitat by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, if sufficient private funds (\$1.9 million) are raised. Matching public funds from the Marin Co. Open Space District, the State Lands Commission and the federal government are already committed.

NESTS ON WEST
MARIN ISLAND

MARIN AUDUBON CENSUS (FROM BOAT):

YEAR	GREAT EGRET	SNOWY EGRET	NIGHT HERON
1979	58	262	98
1981	75	325	109
1982	187	500	80
1983	190	345	89
1984	139	347	54
1985	84	161	79
1986	160	126	40
1987	89	239	41
1988	77	212	35
1989	79	245	61
1990*	119	300	37

US FISH AND WILDLIFE ON-ISLAND
CENSUS APRIL 25:

1990	154	436	306
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*A nest of a Great Blue Heron pair was seen in 1990 by MAS observers.

In addition to the species indicated in the table, Black Oystercatcher, Western Gull, Canada Goose and Mallard have nested on West Marin Island. The tidelands are habitat for thousands of diving birds, Canvasback, Double-



crested Cormorant, Scaup, Western Grebe, Surf Scoter and Ruddy Duck. At low tide the exposed tide and mud-flats are foraging habitat for thousands of shorebirds, Least and Western Sand-piper, Dunlin, Dowitcher, Long-billed Curlew and Marbled Godwit.

East Marin Island has been managed as a private residence by owners, the Crowley family of Crowley Tug and Barge. Under the management of the Fish and Wildlife Service, this island will be managed in a natural state. No human use will be permitted during the nesting season, so the birds will be able to use this island for nesting.

Marin Audubon has committed to raising \$100,000 to help with the purchase, Golden Gate Audubon has contributed \$25,000 from it's Sanctuary Fund. A purchase option is held by the State Coastal Conservancy. Because of the baywide importance of the Islands and the amount of money needed, Marin Audubon is seeking donations from Audubon members throughout the Bay. Please send your donation to Marin Audubon at P.O. Box 599, Mill Valley, CA 94942. Make checks payable to MAS and indicate Marin Islands on the envelope. Contributions are tax deductible.

BACK YARD BIRDER

This back yard birder was lucky enough to experience East Africa, Kenya specifically, this fall. It is an animal-lover's paradise and a birder's dream-come-true. Here there are no fewer than 1033 bird species! A single, well-planned day could yield 250+ species—more than most active birders see in a single year in the British Isles or the north eastern U.S. We were not on a bird-oriented safari, but without even trying (okay, *I* was trying) we saw over 200 species in 11 days.

We had many memorable moments observing animal behavior in living color and up close and personal. The bird life merely enriched the experience.

Birds of prey are the most obvious. They play important roles on the plains as destroyers of snakes and rodents and as garbage men, picking carrion clean. The Secretary Bird is endemic to Africa and is a wonderful sight as it stalks open country on long legs. It is clad in ideal secretarial garb: black bicycle pants atop yellow hose and "high heels," bright pink eyeshadow and a perky crest at the back of its head. Tawny Eagles are very common and associate with vultures at cheetah and lion kills. The Fish Eagle resembles our Bald Eagle but with beautiful chestnut shoulders and belly. Its far-carrying, wild call is one of the characteristic sounds of Africa. The Pygmy Falcon and the Dark Chanting Goshawk became familiar favorites.

Many kinds of herons and egrets abound. The common Cattle Egret looks like an elephant's pet as it practically hugs the huge animal's leg, pouncing on insects which fly up. The Hamerkop is odd looking with its squared-off head, hence its name. It builds its nest near water, a huge structure of sticks with a side entrance.

Storks are also common, the Saddlebill being the most obvious with its massive red and black bill with a yellow saddle at its base. The Marabou Storks resemble undertakers as they slouch around carrion. Elegant Crowned Cranes perched on bare branches riverside made a picture post card.

We saw many Ostrich of both races. The Somali have a blue-grey neck and thighs while the Masai race wears flesh pink tights and turtleneck. We observed courtship, a stylized series of moves which include crouching with wings drooping accompanied by undulations of their long necks. One male rejected the flirtatious advances of one female but couldn't resist the seduction of another. It was an intensely passionate union. Apparently the Ostrich mate for life, sharing the tasks of brooding and baby-sitting. We saw Mom and Dad with 15 young, no more than 12" high, barely visible in the long, dry grass. Their strange-looking baby feathers looked more like coarse porcupine quills. It's hard to believe this 7-8" tall animal is a bird!

Many of the birds have breath-taking plumage, vivid colors with iridescent hues. A cursory glance, however, might lead you to miss some birds which appear a drab brown. A peek through your binos may reveal a Purple Grenadier with cobalt blue plumage and crimson cheek patches. Hornbills are aptly-named and are noisy and comical. Any Hollywood starlet would kill for the 1" long eyelashes worn by the Ground Hornbill.

Birding in Kenya is a joy, with good light and unobstructed views. At one camp, however, we were in thick woods beside the Mara River. The haunting calls of the Tropical Bou Bou and the White-browed Robin Chat were taunting us. The bou bou can even throw his voice,

making spotting him even harder. Time and patience rewarded us.

By far the most exotic sighting was the Paradise Flycatcher. A breathtaking and unmistakable bird, it is a rich chestnut color with a very black head and sweeping tail feathers 3 times its body length. As it perched in a sunny glade I wished I were a photographer. Instead I took a picture in my mind's eye. All of *my* pictures turn out perfectly!

Despite the excitement of travel and new birds, it's comforting to return home to the sad song of fall's newly-returned Golden-crowned Sparrow. "Oh, dear me."

—MEG PAULETICH

SPOKANE'S PEREGRINES

The Spokane Audubon Society, the Washington Dept. of Wildlife and Washington Water Power are joint sponsors of a continuing program to introduce Peregrine Falcons to the Spokane area. The buildings and bridges as well as the cliff sides of the river offer suitable sites for the return of this species. A member of GGAS who passed through Spokane on the day of release of one of the 1990 pairs brought back a brochure. The young falcons were reared in a special window box on the top floor of a WWP substation on the Spokane River, near City Hall, which had a handsome exhibit interpreting the release program to the public. The release was attended with considerable interest, probably in part because the exhibit and the brochure emphasize that birds of prey "feed on other animals, in this case birds, like pigeons". Our observer mentions that Spokane seems well supplied with the appropriate prey.

The brochure reports that only nine pairs are now known to nest in Washington, some from release programs, but this is the first urban release in that state.

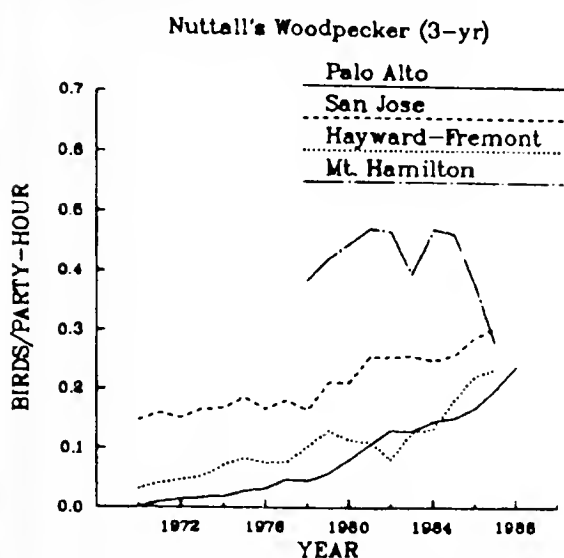
WHAT VALUE THE CBC?

(from *The Avocet*, Oct. 1990 published by Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society)

When December comes around, the more fanatical birders look forward to the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season. Every year they go out on count day and see how many different birds they can count. Some years the weather is relatively balmy, but some years it is just horrible. They come back and tell their friends what a great time they had and the great birds they saw. Is there any point to these bird counts besides confirming to families and friends that we are all a bit daft? Or to put it another way, is it possible to obtain valid scientific data and still have fun?

The volume of CBC data is immense and it can tell us a great deal about the early winter distribution of birds throughout the United States and Canada. In addition, as more years of data are acquired, it is possible to obtain fundamental new knowledge about population trends. These trends may provide us with an early warning of species undergoing a decline and encourage us to gather additional necessary data that will show how widespread the decline is and what are the causes.

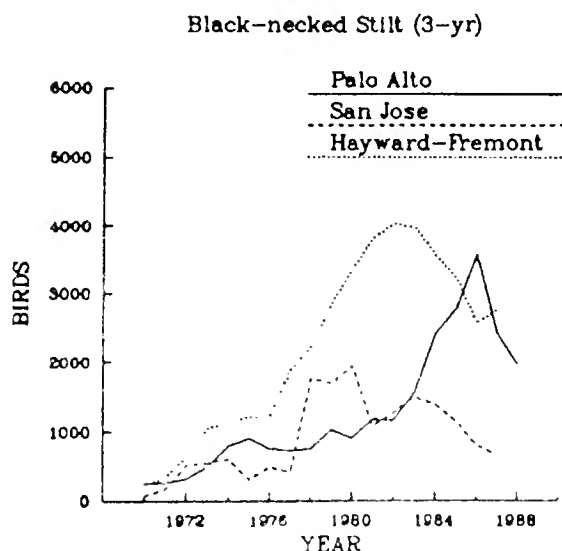
Over the last few years I have been generating a data base of CBC data for the South Bay. Many difficulties arise in using these data, but overall, I believe, the data are relatively accurate and can be used to identify long-term population trends. An example of a species that is showing an expanding population is the Nuttall's Woodpecker. In the figure I show the number of birds recorded in four local counts, normalized by the number of party-hours. It is necessary to normalize the data with some measure of observer effort as the number of hours afield has doubled or tripled on the South Bay counts since 1970.



I also used a running three-year average of the data to smooth out some of the year to year variation. Nuttall's Woodpecker is primarily a bird of the dry oak woodlands in the interior ranges of California and is not found in the wet and humid forests of the northwest. Observers first started noting this species in the Stanford area on the late 1960s and we finally found one in Palo Alto count in 1971. The population has grown exponentially since that time in both the Palo Alto and Hayward-Fremont count circles. Comparing other counts, it is interesting to see that the bird has become significantly more common in the San Jose circle as well, but the population appears to be stable in the Diablo Range, where it is the most common. The increase shown here for the northern Santa Cruz mountains (reflected in the Palo Alto count) is fascinating—what can be the explanation? Are we seeing a local warming and drying with the boundary between the Pacific Northwest and California zones shifting north?

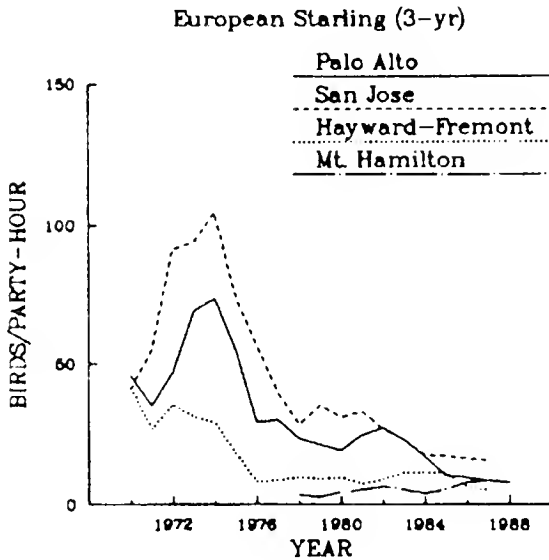
Another species that has shown strong population increase is the Black-necked Stilt. In this case, I do not nor-

malize the data, as this species is readily visible along the Bay, and the basic numbers should be independent of how many parties are counting in the marshes and salt ponds. In the early 1970s, the aggregate count of stilts was about 500 birds on the three South Bay counts. Now the total is more like 5,000 birds, a ten-fold increase. A substantial part of the increase, especially in the early 1980s, was in the eastern portion of the South Bay. Again this increase is striking and fascinating, but the cause is obscure. Were their populations affected by the creation of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge? Were preferred habitats elsewhere damaged, forcing these birds into the South Bay? And why have the number of avocets, the stilt's close relative, remained unchanged?



The final example is of a species in decline, but one that none of us will mourn. In the early 1970s, the introduced European Starling was one of the most abundant birds on all of our counts. The total count was of 24,000 birds on the San Jose CBC in 1973! Yet all of the counts have shown a significant decline starting with the mid-1970s. It is clear from the data that no one local influence

can explain the decline as it is paralleled in each of the South Bay counts.



On islands, introduced species frequently go through a cycle where they initially explode in population and then decline to some low and stable level. Perhaps the starling has at last met its fate on our small island.

Someday, all of the CBC data will be in a data base and accessible to both scientists and conservation organizations like our local chapter. We will sift through the data and look for species facing problems and then work up to regional data bases to see how widespread the problems are. Other data bases will be available to tell quickly of other factors. Has the rainfall been decreasing? How much of the land is in farming and how much in light industry? We will have hard numbers and hard facts when we go before the local agencies responsible for land stewardship. But that time is not here yet. While we wait, there is another Christmas count season upon us, birds to count, and rarities to cherish.

—BILL BOUSMAN

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch (415) 868-9244

Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970

Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies

Gary Holloway, President

HERONRY REPORT

Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets nested in the Pitcher Canyon colony this year. The beginning of the season was delayed, perhaps because of the presence of a Golden Eagle, perhaps due to the drought, or more likely due to a combination of both. Nine pairs of Great Blue Herons raised 16 young. Five or six additional pairs nested behind Smiley's Bar in Bolinas. Great Egrets had a stressful, but successful year. Ninety-one pairs built nests of which 86% were successful. They reared about 140 young. Snowy Egrets returned to the colony as well. Four and maybe 5 pairs attempted nesting. Two successful nests produced 7 young.

Beside impacts from the Golden Eagle and the drought, nesting birds and young were impacted by heavy rains in May. Crows are suspected to have taken young from nests during the absence of adults. Examination pellets indicates Great Horned Owl had a minimal impact on herons and egrets, hard luck for the local moles and mice.

We are very grateful to Helen Pratt for her work in monitoring the heronry, compiling data and developing this year's heronry report. Thanks too to Tom Queer and Lois Vandsandt for their assistance.

ANNUAL APPEAL

It happens every year at this time. ACR mails out its annual appeal letter. It is the only solicitation during the course of the year. Please be generous. Mail your tax deductible check to Audubon Canyon Ranch, 4900 Hwy. 1, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

CHANGES AT THE RANCH

This month finds us greeting new officers and board members. At our October board meeting Gary Holloway was elected President, John Dillon—1st Vice President, Paul Ruby—2nd Vice President, Steve Thai—Treasurer and Bob Hahn—Secretary. Our other officers include Katie Beacock, Kit Lee, Jeanne Price, George Peyton, Nicki Spillane, Flora Maclise and Grant Fletcher.

Our very sincere thanks go to outgoing officers Jack Harper, Mary Ann Sadler, Nancy Barbour, Debbie Ablin, Shirley Bogardus and Susie Coleman. All will remain active board members. We want to thank Helen Pratt and Ginny Fletcher for their work on the board and in various ACR projects. Both are leaving the board to take seats on the Advisory Board. We are very glad that both Helen and Ginny will remain active members of the ACR community. Helen will continue her very valuable research on our heronry and other heronries in Marin County.

Docent training programs are underway at both Bouverie and Bolinas preserves. Thirty-four new docents are in training at the former and 25 at the latter. These are the people who will continue our education programs during the next several years. To each of our newly active friends we wish them success and we welcome them to their new role with the Audubon Canyon Ranch family.

ESTATE AND TAX PLANNING SEMINARS

Nov. 3—California Academy of Sciences; Nov. 17—Marin Art and Garden Center.

Join one of ACR's free Estate and Tax Planning Seminars. These two hour seminars are designed to explain such subjects as estate planning, durable power of attorney for health care, duties of a trustee, and charitable remainder

trusts. Jack Harper, Phil Murphy, Caroline Farren and Robert J. Kwasneski, all professionals in this very complicated field, will each make presentations. Our past seminars have been very well received. Each seminar will be held between 10 a.m. and noon. You may register by calling (415) 868-9244. This will enable us to plan for refreshments and materials. If you are unable to register, please feel free to join us.

FREE LUNCH

Just help us out our year end chores at the Ranch and we'll provide the lunch. Please call Edris to let us know you'll be joining us (868-9244).

MONARCHS Nov. 11

Join Ray Peterson for a look at these amazing migrant butterflies. There's no free lunch this time, monarchs are inedible. (\$20)

WINTER BIRDS OF TOMALES BAY—Nov. 17

John Kelly will introduce you to the ecology and identification of wintering birds at Tomales Bay. This should prove to be an excellent day of birding. (\$20)

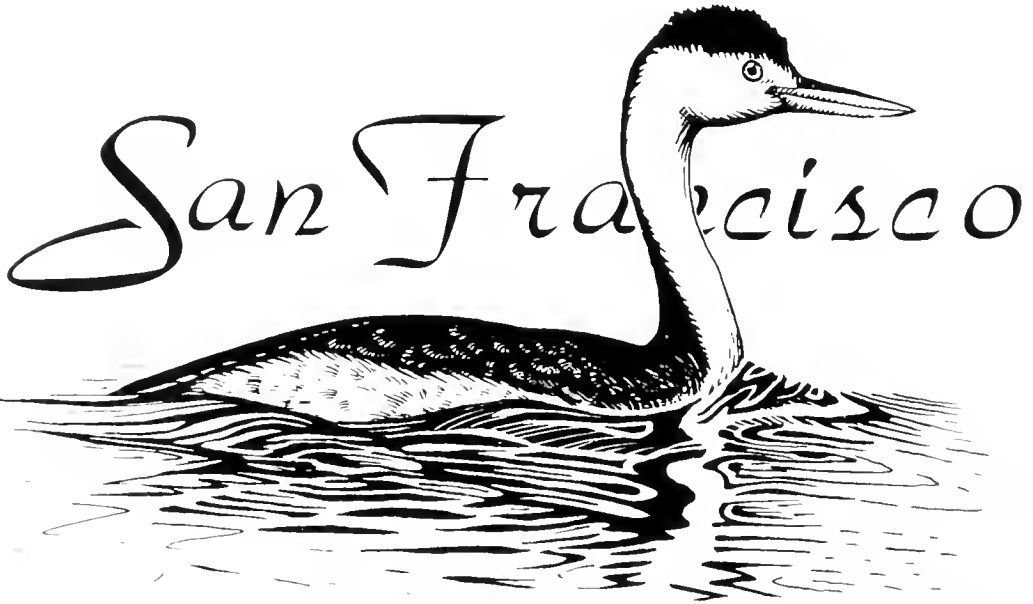
COASTAL PRAIRIE RESTORATION DAY—Dec. 8

John Kelly will direct your efforts to restore some of the Cypress Grove upland with native bunch grasses. Here's a great chance to bring about tangible environmental change. Not only that, its free.

GUIDED NATURE WALKS—Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 19

Discover the marvelous Bouverie Audubon Preserve on one of our half day walks. Led by Bouverie Docents, these walks begin at 9:30 a.m. and end around 1:30 p.m. Please register no later than the Wednesday prior to the walk at (707) 938-4554.

—DAN MURPHY



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

1990 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

ASH 88

GIFTS and BEQUESTS**FOR GGAS****Gift of****In Memory of**

Sara Levy Miller

Jack & Caroline Service

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1250 Addison St., #107B, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

T-SHIRTS FOR 1990 COUNT

Brought back by popular demand, GGAS is offering our very favorite Christmas Count designs: Deborah Cotter's Towhee corrected to the new nomenclature, and Alan Hopkins' Western Grebe, both updated for this year's Count (cherish those old shirts). The Oakland California Towhee will be

on ash cotton shirts and the SF Grebe will be on the melon cotton shirts. The price for the shirts this year is \$11.50 (including tax, \$1.50 more for mailing). Sizes small, medium, large and extra large will be available. Ordering early will allow delivery or pick-up before the count day. (see page 171)

Golden Gate Audubon Society

Christmas '90

BIRD COUNT



California
Brown Towhee Capital
of the World
Oakland, California

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FIND A BANDED BIRD

If you find a banded bird, send the following information to the Bird Banding Laboratory, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC (no zip needed):

1) The number on the band. Read it carefully. There may be nine digits on a band small enough to fit a wren's leg. Or flatten the band and tape it to your letter.

2) The date of recovery.

3) The location with approximate mileage to the nearest town.

4) The condition of the bird. Alive? Dead? Injured? Released? If so, date of release.

5) A description of how the bird was found: at a picture window, brought in by a cat, dog or child; found by the roadside, on a beach, hit by a car, etc.

If the bird is dead, and in fair condition, it should be carefully wrapped and immediately stored in a freezer until it can be given, with a copy of the above information, to an educational institution. Since the collection of wild birds is illegal, museums, nature centers and universities are dependent upon specimens brought to them. Even a damaged wing, boney structure of leg or foot or a skull can be used for teaching.

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Bay Area Bird Photographers meeting for November will be from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7 at the Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Mike Danzenbaker's previously postponed slide show of birds photographed within "day-trip" range of our Bay Area homes. Extensive travel is not essential to stunning bird photograph. Come and see for yourself.

OFFICIAL INVITATION TO SHOP

We invite you to visit our new office in Berkeley and see for yourself some of the items we have for sale there. It's not too early to think about holiday gift buying for your favorite wildlife enthusiast.

GGAS has just published the second edition of our CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF THE EAST BAY REGION, CALIFORNIA. We have reformatted this edition into booklet form allowing for a succession of entries. On the cover is a handsome drawing of a Song Sparrow by Alan Hopkins. The price is \$1.25 tax included.

Also available for early mailing is the striking MONO LAKE calendar which is particularly appealing for 1991. Our price is \$9.60 tax included.

We have new items in the form of beautifully detailed maps and guides to trails of the East Bay Hills, northern and central sections and Mt. Tamalpais and the Marin Headlands. The maps are published by Olmsted & Bros. and should help you in exploring some of the best hiking trails in the Bay area. They are priced at \$6.38 including tax.

In addition we still carry our old standbys: THE BIRDER'S HANDBOOK (my personal favorite), BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE, BIRDING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, assorted bird feeders, bird seed, patches, and a variety of remaindered t-shirts at rock bottom prices.

Please drop by and see what we have to offer—9 to 12 and 1 to 4, Tuesday through Friday.

—BARBARA RIVENES

CHRISTMAS COUNT '90

GGAS urges you to get into the fun of the Christmas Count this year. Tufted duck, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Wood Thrush—what will be next? You will have to be there to find out. You might even be the one to spot the year's rarest bird. See page 153 for phone numbers. Try either or both counts.



GGAS HOLIDAY IDEAS

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (day) _____

		QUANTITY AMOUNT	
GGAS WETLANDS SERIES CARDS	4 for \$5.35		
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE To The Birds of North America	\$18.15		
BIRDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA An Annotated Field List	\$6.00		
THE BIRDER'S HANDBOOK A Field Guide	\$15.00		
CHRISTMAS COUNT T-SHIRTS:	\$11.50		
San Francisco—with Clark's Grebe	S M L XL		
Oakland—with California Towhee	S M L XL		
MONO LAKE CALENDAR	\$9.60		
OLMSTEAD TRAIL MAPS	\$6.38		
East Bay Hills—Northern ()			
East Bay Hills—Southern ()			
East Bay Hills—Central ()			
Marin Headlands and Mt. Tamalpais ()			
POSTAGE			
TOTAL			

Price includes tax. Postage is \$1.50 per item (except the notecards which is \$1.00). Make check payable to GGAS. Save the postage by coming to the office to shop. Open T, W, TH & F 9-12 and 1-4.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

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THE GULL

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Rare Bird Alert (update) 524-5592

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Office Manager, Barbara Rivenes (843-2222)

*Members of the Board of Directors

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Nicki Spillane

Dan Murphy
Bruce Howard

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288
Update: 524-5592

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.